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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3331  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2228  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2349  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0879  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1626  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1982  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2403  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4835  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1498  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000730

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR G. GARLAND  
DRL FOR N. WILETT  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS  
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: TSVANGIRAI CANDIDATE ELECTED HOUSE SPEAKER

REF: HARARE 711

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

¶1. (U) Lovemore Moyo of MDC Tsvangirai (MDC-T) was elected speaker of the House of Assembly in a secret ballot today. He defeated Paul Themba Nyathi, nominated by MDC Mutambara (MDC-T), by a vote of 110-98. Nyathi was supported by ZANU-PF, which did not field a candidate.

¶2. (U) MDC-T has 100 parliamentarians. Two members (Elijah Zembere and Sure Mudzingwa) were arrested before the parliamentary session began. Zembere was wanted on an arrest warrant alleging rape. There were apparently no outstanding charges against Mudzingwa and he was released, but not before the vote. Except for Zembere and Mudzingwa, all parliamentarians elected on March 27 and in three subsequent by-elections were present.

¶3. (C) To achieve its 110 majority, MDC-T apparently whipped its 98 parliamentarians present to maintain unity and vote for Moyo. The additional 12 votes probably came mostly from MDC-M with several votes from ZANU-PF necessary as well. MDC-M members had told us they expected 6-8 MDC-M parliamentarians to break ranks and vote for Moyo (Ref).

¶4. (C) COMMENT. The House speaker is charged with regulating debate and coordinating the business of the House of Assembly. The position has no intrinsic power outside of Parliament. The significance of the election is that it demonstrates MDC-T's ability to maintain party unity and to form a majority in the House of Assembly. It may also give MDC-T president Morgan Tsvangirai added leverage in negotiations with ZANU-PF. END COMMENT.  
MCGEE